

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ROME 15096 161224Z

14

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

TRSE-00 IO-13 EB-07 /080 W
----- 011221

R 161125Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9986

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 15096

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJ: LA MALFA'S EXPLANATION OF HIS POSITION

REF: ROME 14996

1. ON SEPTEMBER 14 UGO LA MALFA, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY, TOOK THE INITIATIVE IN ARRANGING A MEETING WITH THE CHARGE TO EXPLAIN HIS OUTLOOK ON THE ITALIAN POLITICAL SCENE. LA MALFA WAS CONCERNED THAT WE MIGHT HAVE BEEN HEARING COMMENTS TO THE EFFECT THAT SOMEHOW HE HAD GONE SOFT ON THE PCI. HE WANTED TO EXPLAIN HIS POSITION DIRECTLY.

2. IN A LENGTHY AND SOMEWHAT RAMBLING PRESENTATION, LA MALFA SAID THAT HE HAD FOUGHT FOR DEMOCRACY IN ITALY SINCE THE 30'S. HE DID NOT FAVOR A COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT FOR ITALY. HE COMPLAINED THAT THE COUNTRY IS IN A TERRIBLE STATE DUE TO THE COUNTLESS ERRORS FOR OVER 20 YEARS BY THE DC'S, SOCIALISTS AND OTHERS, (HE DID NOT CLAIM ANY BLAME FOR HIS REPUBLICANS). HE WAS PARTICULARLY BITTER ABOUT THE LACK OF MORAL FIBER OF THE DC'S AND THE SOCIALISTS. HE WAS SCATHING IN REFERENCE TO THE LATTER, SAYING THAT IF THE SOCIALISTS FACED A SHOWDOWN ON WHETHER TO SUPPORT THE ANDREOTTI GOVERNMENT, IT WOULD SPLIT THE PARTY AND THE MORALLY VIGOROUS PART WOULD GO TO THE COMMUNISTS WHILE THE CORRUPT ELEMENT WOULD ADHERE TO THE DC POSITION. LA MALFA BELIEVES THAT THE "COMPROMESSO STORICO" HAS OCCURRED TO ALL INTENTS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ROME 15096 161224Z

AND PURPOSES. HE BELIEVES ITS FORMAL ESTABLISHMENT IS ONLY A

MATTER OF TIME. IN HIS INEVITABLY VAGUE WAY, LA MALFA BELIEVES THAT THE PCI SHOULD BE FORCED TO SHOW THAT IT IS TRULY A WESTERN PARTY, FREE FROM TIES TO MOSCOW. LA MALFA INDICATED THAT HE HIMSELF CAN GIVE NO GUARANTEE AS TO THE REAL POSITION OF THE PCI BUT SUGGESTED THAT SINCE THEY WOULD BECOME PART OF THE GOVERNMENT ANYWAY, THEY SHOULD BE FORCED TO SIGN A PACT WITH THE OTHER DEMOCRATIC PARTIES IN WHICH THEY WOULD AGREE TO ACT AS A DEMOCRATIC PARTY ON SPECIFIC ISSUES BOTH DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL. LA MALFA BELIEVES THAT IN THIS WAY THEY WOULD BE FORCED TO SHOW THEIR TRUE COLORS. WHAT HAPPENS IF THEY TURN OUT TO BE MOSCOW RED, IS NOT AT ALL CLEAR.

3. WHEN THE CHARGE REMARKED THAT THE DC SHOWED SOME SERIOUS SIGNS OF RENEWAL, LA MALFA BRUSHED THIS IDEA ASIDE AS TOO LITTLE AND MUCH TOO LATE. HE SAID THERE WAS SIMPLY NOT TIME ENOUGH FOR THE DC, OR THE SOCIALISTS FOR THAT MATTER, TO RE-ESTABLISH THEIR MORAL POSITION BEFORE THE COMMUNISTS ACHIEVED THEIR ENDS. WHEN CHIDED ON THE FACT THAT THE LAY PARTIES (PRI, PSDI, PLI, PSI) DID NOT PULL THEMSELVES TOGETHER TO FORM A DEMOCRATIC LAY PARTY IN THE PERIOD AFTER THE DIVORCE REFERENDUM, LA MALFA RG THAT HE HAD THOUGHT OF THAT IDEA, BUT MUCH EARLIER. LA MALFA SAID THAT 1969 WAS THE TIME TO HAVE FORMED SUCH A PARTY BUT THE OPPORTUNITY WAS MISSED AND THE BATTLE WAS LOST.

4. LA MALFA IS GETTING ON IN YEARS. HE WAS A MINISTER IN THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT WHEN PRESIDENT TRUMAN WAS IN THE WHITE HOUSE. HE IS RELUCTANT TO GIVE UP "BEING IMPORTANT" AND RETAINS A REPUTATION FOR SPEAKING PLAINLY. HIS POWER IS SMALL BUT HIS INFLUENCE IS STILL CONSIDERABLE SINCE HE REPRESENTS AN ELITE CONSTITUENCY OF WELL-EDUCATED PROFESSIONAL PEOPLE. DURING THE CONVERSATION, LA MALFA KEPT REITERATING HIS CLOSENESS TO AMERICAN THINKING AND HIS DEDICATION TO THE ALLIANCE. HE ADMITTED TO A LEVEL OF PESSIMISM WHICH HE CONSIDERS REALISTIC. HE REMARKED SEVERAL TIMES THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO VISIT THE US AFTER THE ELECTIONS. THIS MAY BE WORTHWHILE IF ONLY TO EXPOSE HIM TO OUR VIEWS IN GREATER DEPTH.BEAUDRY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ROME15096
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760350-0653
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760953/aaaabtep.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 ROME 14996
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 MAY 2004 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <31 AUG 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LA MALFA'S EXPLANATION OF HIS POSITION
TAGS: PINT, IT, (LA MALFA, UGO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006